### **Source Water Protection**

**South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region** 



Mystaya Touw, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority







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### **Outline**

- Previous stormwater approvals landscape
- Stormwater approval landscape as of September 2025
- What is EASR? What are the impacts?
- Policy implications and recommendations

# Streamlining environmental permissions for stormwater management under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry

ERO number 019-6928

Notice type Regulation

Act Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990

Posted by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Notice stage Decision

Decision posted July 22, 2025

Comment period August 31, 2023 - October 30, 2023 (60 days) Closed

Last updated July 22, 2025

This consultation was open from:

August 31, 2023

to October 30, 2023



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### **Decision summary**

The ministry is streamlining permissions for certain storm water management works by moving them to a registration-first approach or exempting them from a permission. These changes will allow important projects to begin faster while ensuring appropriate environmental protections are in place.



Types of Stormwater Works

**Stormwater Management Facility** 

**Stormwater Infiltration Facility** 

Consolidated Linear Infrastructure – Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECA)

Types of Stormwater Approvals

**Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)** 

**Exempt from approvals/registration** 

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# S.36 Amendment – current policy approach for stormwater

- Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECAs) or Consolidated Linear Infrastructure – Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECAs) for most Threats
  - Conditions
    - Permit expansion and retrofits where they would not be contributing to a significant drinking water threat
    - Operations, maintenance, and monitoring plans
    - Identify threat activity and drinking water system
    - Emergency response plan
- Risk Management Plans (RMPs) for low-risk facilities exempted from provincial approvals

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**Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)** 

**Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)** 

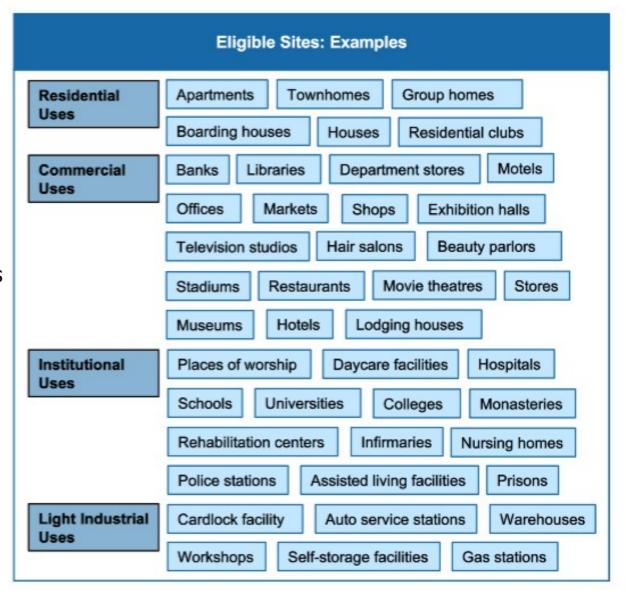
**Exempt from approvals/registration** 

# What is EASR?

- Environmental Activity and Sector Registry
  - It is a self-registration system and is considered an 'approval'
  - For stormwater, only privately owned facilities can register and there are some exemptions
  - Must be signed off on by a Licensed Engineering Professional
  - There is no review before 'approval' and no posting the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO)
  - Registration will be publicly accessible through Access Environment
  - They can be audited after the fact

# What projects are eligible?

Privately owned stormwater works servicing commercial, institutional, light industrial or multi-unit residential properties



### What projects are ineligible?

- Processing, repair or maintenance of goods or materials is conducted outdoors
- Discharge from process water, cooling water, wash water, or sanitary sewage is collected or received by the stormwater works
- The stormwater facility services an activity such as heavy industrial sites, resource extraction sites, power generation facilities, golf courses and greenhouses, salt and snow storage areas, waste disposal sites, etc.



## What is required for registration?

- Technical information on the design, operations and maintenance of the stormwater facility
- Spill contingency plans
- Assessment of if the activity would a significant drinking water threat, and how a threat would be managed if one exists

 The Ministry intends to provide standard guidance for all of these steps

### **Available policy options**

- Prohibition of all stormwater facilities where the would be a significant drinking water threat and subject to any provincial 'approval'
- Monitoring policies requesting information from MECP about the number of threats and audits
- Non-legally binding policies asking that significant drinking water threat facilities be prioritized within the audit process
- The Committee <u>cannot</u> stack a risk management plan policy on top of an approval

### **Proposed policy changes**

#### · ADD:

- MON-7: By February 1 of each year, MECP shall report to the local Source Protection Authority on the number of registrations to the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) that are considered Significant Drinking Water Threats, and how many registrations for Significant Drinking Water Threats were audited by Ministry Staff in the previous year.
- SEWG(a)-2: The MECP is encouraged to prioritize activities registered to the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry that are considered Significant Drinking Water Threats within their audit process.

#### REMOVE:

• SEWG(a)-2: Where the Ontario Water Resources Act does not require an approval, existing and future stormwater infiltration facilities, where the activity would be a significant threat to drinking water, shall require a Risk Management Plan that includes appropriate terms and conditions to ensure that the activity ceases to be or does not become a significant drinking water threat.

## Thank you

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